Chair's Greeting by Wes Chapin

Welcome to the 2012 Newsletter. It has been another amazing and busy year for Political Science. We have advocated for an international position for many years, and are very excited that during fall 2011 we were able to hire a new assistant professor, Dr. Sooh-Rhee Ryu who will teach both international studies and political science courses. She is a native of Korea, and has lived in Europe and North America. Among other things, she will help us expand our international offerings, teaching courses we have not been able to offer regularly, such as the Politics of East Asia. During fall we also had a very successful seven-year program review. This was a comprehensive evaluation of our program that included alumni input. I would like to thank all of you who provided survey responses to help us with this important process.

During both fall and spring, many of us, Dr. Neil Kraus and I in particular, were busy responding to media inquiries and being interviewed about the Wisconsin Recall Election process. For those of you in the Twin Cities, you might have had the opportunity to see Dr. Kraus on shows such as the Almanac, or the evening news programs.

Our current students remained very busy. The International Relations Club attended the Annual Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference at Mankato State University, bringing home another award for Best Delegate. I spent spring semester in Europe with 35 students in the International Traveling Classroom and then returned again with 22 students studying German politics.

In May we hosted a wonderful panel of alumni who were able to provide suggestions to current students about how to prepare for careers. I’d like to thank alumni Donna Drummond, Ken Green, Max Neuhause, and our CAS Dean Brad Caskey for helping us.

I hope you enjoy the faculty updates and the alumni profiles that are in this newsletter. I’d like to stress that Joan Kratt has been an integral and extremely valued member of our department, and a friend for many years. She has decided it is time to retire to spend more time with her family. So many of the things that we have done as a department have been successful because of her key contributions, and she will be greatly missed, both professionally and personally. On behalf of the Department I would like to wish her the best of continued success and happiness, and hope to hear about her future adventures. And tell us yours!

UWRF International Relations Club attends Model UN Conference by Erick Highum

A group of 13 UWRF political science and international studies students traveled to Mankato MN for the Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference held April 12–15, 2012. UWRF students were included on each of the panels, including the Security Council, Economic and Social Committee, and the Environment Committee, where they represented three states' policies on the resolutions before each panel.

Jason Larson distinguished himself as the best debater on the Economic and Social Committee, and won an award for his thoroughness and clarity of argument.

Another highlight of the conference was delivered by the keynote speaker, the current Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations from the country of Tunisia. H. E. Ambassador Nejmeddin Lakhal discussed the conditions that led to the fall of the former regime, and the advent of democracy in the Arab spring of 2011.
Faculty and Staff Updates

David Alperin, Professor.

“This has been a busy year for me. I had great students in the courses I taught this year. The courses, which included Congressional Politics, Political Participation, and the Politics of Equality and Inequality, among others, were so relevant to topics on the contemporary political stage. It was exciting for me to explore these topics with intellectually curious and politically aware students.

In addition to those face-to-face courses, this summer I am teaching an online version of The Politics of Equality and Inequality for the first time. To prepare for this, I attended a number of different workshops this year. The first was held at UWRF early last summer by Mathematics Professor Maria Andersen of Muskegon Community College in Michigan. While it might seem strange at first for a person in political science to go to a session taught by a math professor, there are actually many insights about on-line teaching that professors from a variety of disciplines can share with each other to make their online courses more effective. This also proved true in the On-Line Teaching Institute I attended over the course of fall semester where I learned (along with URFW professors from Psychology, English, Economics and other disciplines) various strategies for effective on-line teaching with Scott Wojtanowski, a Teaching and Learning Technologies expert with UWRF’s Division of Technology Services.

Another activity that kept me busy in the spring was serving as acting chair of the Political Science Department, while our regular department chair, Wes Chapin, was leading students on the International Traveling Classroom in Europe. I had served as acting chair once before and can tell you that my respect for the amount of work that chairs perform increases each time I’ve had to sit in their chairs (so to speak.) I am looking forward to Professor Chapin’s return and handing back the chair duties to him.

Finally, this spring I had the opportunity to conduct research on the changing election procedures in Wisconsin and Minnesota and to present my findings at the New England Political Science Association Meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. As you probably know, Wisconsin has already enacted a photo id requirement for voters, although there are currently court injunctions keeping this requirement from being enforced. In Minnesota, the legislature put a constitutional amendment on the ballot, which, if approved by voters in November, would add a photo id requirement for voters in future elections. Other presenters on the same panel gave papers about recent changes in voting laws in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Maine. It was very interesting to compare and contrast what has been happening in these states.”

Send your news to POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include it in our next year’s issue!

Erick Highum, Adjunct Faculty since 2000.

During Spring semester 2012, Dr. Erick Highum taught three courses for the department, two sections of International Relations, and the Senior Seminar in Political Science and International Studies. In May Dr. Highum organized an alumni event for the senior seminar students to gain knowledge and contacts from alumni in the fields of law, academics, government, and business.

In addition, in April 2012, he traveled to the Model United Nations conference in Mankato, MN, where he served as Chair of the Economic and Social Committee, and as advisor to the contingent of URFW students.

He also continued his work with student researchers on the 2012 URFW International Terrorism survey, advising the team of four researchers on their presentation of findings at the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Utah in March 2012.

Joan Kratt, Academic Department Associate since 1999, splits her time between Political Science/International Studies and Journalism/Marketing Communications.

“For the past 13 years, I have enjoyed working with faculty and students, in addition to managing daily operations. When not working at URFW, I love traveling to visit family in Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and China. I plan to retire this summer and will miss many friends and colleagues on campus but it is time to move on to the next chapter.”

Neil Kraus, Associate Professor, continues to focus most of his teaching and research on state and local politics and policies. He recently published an article in the journal State and Local Government Review entitled “The Challenges and Possibilities for Regional Collaboration among Small Jurisdictions.” Much of the research for this article was carried out during his time on the
Faculty and Staff Updates (continued)

Board of the Western Wisconsin Intergovernmental Collaborative. Neil is also in the last stages of his book on local politics in Minneapolis and Gary, Indiana. As a result of the Wisconsin recall election, he has been a guest on several Twin Cities media outlets, including the show Almanac on TPT 2, Minnesota Public Radio, KSTP, and KARE –11.

Chris Simer, Adjunct Faculty, has been teaching in both the History and Political Science departments, starting his fifth year at UWRF.

“I have especially enjoyed the students in Comparative Politics and the Senior Research paper in Political Science. I have been researching contemporary political extremism and polarization, as well as working on a paper on Civil Defense history. In my spare time I am continuing my study of Taijiquan, Qigong, and other Chinese martial arts while sporadically trying to teach myself Latin.”

Joan Kratt likes this quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt: “In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up or else all go down as one people.”

2011 CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks to the following for their generous contributions to support political science scholarships and/or the Political Science Foundation:

- Robert Agranoff General Mills Community Action
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WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for considering a gift that will help educate the next generation of UWR F students. The Foundation (Alumni) Office accepts gifts by check, credit card and “Planned Giving.” See http://www.uwrf.edu/UniversityAdvancement/WaysToGive.cfm or phone 877-258-6647 or 715-425-3505 for more information. Be sure to specify a scholarship (listed above) or the Political Science Department Foundation fund under “Additional instructions for directing your gift.”

Our sincere gratitude and many thanks for supporting our students!
Alumni Profiles

We are incredibly proud of the many and amazing accomplishments of our graduates. Please e-mail your stories and greetings to us at POLSnewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in a future newsletter.

Donna Drummond (1979)
Donna Drummond is the director of planning for the City of St. Paul’s Department of Planning and Economic Development, leading an 18 member staff team. Prior to becoming planning director in early 2009, she was the lead City staff person for Mayor Chris Coleman’s Central Corridor LRT initiative. As part of that work, she has spoken at conferences in the U.S. and Canada.

Other areas she has worked in as a city planner in St. Paul include neighborhood planning; college campus planning; and economic development and housing project management.

She has also been active in her community of residence, previously serving as Planning Commission chair for the City of Richfield, Minnesota, and as a commissioner for the Richfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Scott Nordstrand (1984)
After getting his political science degree at UWRF, Scott received his J.D. at the University of North Dakota School of Law.

While living in Alaska, Scott served as an attorney, Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Law and as Commissioner in the Department of Administration.

Scott currently is Director of Administration and Legal counsel for the SSG Corporation headquartered in Hudson, WI and serves on the Board of trustees as chairman for the First Baptist Church of St. Paul.

Randy Romanski (1989)

Since January, 2011, Randy Romanski has served as the Safety Programs Chief for the Wisconsin State Patrol. Serving in that capacity, Romanski directs and develops safety programming activities between the Wisconsin State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies and external safety partner organizations. He also works directly on the Zero in Wisconsin media relations and public information campaign to move Wisconsin toward zero preventable deaths on our state’s roadways.

Prior to joining the Wisconsin State Patrol, Gov. Jim Doyle appointed Romanski Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection in August 2010, succeeding Rod Nilsestuen after his untimely death. Romanski served in the role until January 2011. Romanski had previously served as Nilsestuen’s Deputy Secretary at DATCP, starting that role in 2007. He worked closely with Nilsestuen to enact legislation including the landmark Working Lands Initiative, investment tax credit assistance for dairy farmers, meat processors, dairy cooperatives, food processors and beginning farmers; the new Farm to School program; and the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program.

Prior to joining DATCP, Romanski served as the Executive Assistant for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, deputy chief of staff for Governor Jim Doyle; executive assistant for the Department of Transportation; and spokesperson and policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Randy also has strong experience in the state legislature, having held staff positions in both the Senate and the Assembly, working directly on agricultural, transportation safety, rural affairs and natural resources issues.

Romanski graduated from UW-River Falls with a major in political science and has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Max Neuhaus (2000)

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in political science at UWRF, Max went on to obtain a Master’s in Education and then a Juris Doctor at Hamline University School of Law.

Max’s work in River Falls first began when he was elected to the River Falls Board of Education in 1997. Since being admitted to practice law, Max has represented hundreds of individuals, families and small businesses across western Wisconsin. When not working with clients, Max involves himself heavily in the City of River Falls and teaches business law for the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

“Life is good and I’m looking forward to being a dad in June.”

Olga Andreyeva (2003)

After receiving a B.A. in political Science at UWRF, Olga graduated cum laude with a J.D. from Hamline University School of Law in 2007. Since then, Volha “Olga” Andreyeva has been practicing law at Leonard, Street and Deinard, P.A. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She focuses on transportation law, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and compliance issues, as well as general transactional representation, including the development and financing of renewable energy projects.
Alumni Profiles (continued)

Additionally, Olga is an adjunct to the firm’s Immigration Law practice group, representing employers and individuals (mainly in the renewable energy sector) with their immigration needs.

“I do remember my classes very well and I am very grateful for my experience at UWRF—thanks!”

Jake Duesenberg (2005)

“I was a very active member in the political science department when I attended UW-RF. Upon graduating from college I accepted a commission as an officer in the Army National Guard while also working as an investment broker in the Twin Cities.

In 2007, I mobilized to the U.S./Mexican border for a short period to assist the border patrol. Upon my return to Minnesota, my unit received orders to deploy to Kosovo. I had the chance to work with several NATO forces when the Albanians unilaterally declared their independence from Serbia and hostilities in the region increased.

In 2009, I deployed with 34th "Red Bull" Division to Southern Iraq and was part of the multi-national forces that advised and assisted the Iraqi Army and Police force in securing the country from violence.

After leaving the military, I started an independent investment firm, J.Duesenberg Financial. I'm currently involved in the Minnesota Republican Party as a delegate to the State Convention and in many capacities with the Ron Paul Presidential Campaign and Kurt Bills for US Senate. I am also a featured columnist for The Lone Republic, an online liberty media organization.”

Ted Schneider (2006)

Ted began his career as an enlisted man in the US Navy and served honorably from 1978 to 1984 and participated on two Pacific and Indian Ocean deployments. His awards include the Sea Service Deployment and Battle “E” Ribbons.

After the Navy, Ted spent over 15 years in document management and book manufacturing in business development and operations, working with many different business sectors. After being downsized, Ted realized that “in today’s professional world, it is more difficult for a person to enter or advance in a company or government service without higher education.”

He subsequently obtained his Bachelor of Science degrees in political science and history from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, graduating with honors in 2006. He completed a graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs (CAIA) at Texas A&M Universi-

Send us your news!

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2012 ITC Pictures
As many of you know, I worked with the International Traveling Classroom (ITC) during spring 2012. Students in the ITC take regular classes with our traveling professors, and we travel to several countries in Europe, traveling to key sites related to their classroom activities. Each year the program has three different faculty from various disciplines accompany the students, and this year our itinerary included Edinburgh, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Munich, Berchtesgaden, Verona, and Vienna. Below is a bit of a travel log that I hope you find interesting. Cheers!

Our ITC group arrived in Scotland on January 23 with thirty-five students, three kids, three staff members, and a lot of enthusiasm! We stayed in Dalkeith House, a former "palace and castle" and I think everyone enjoyed the experience. The day we arrived we hit the ground running, taking a historical walking tour of Edinburgh. Part of our time in Scotland was devoted to a World Music Class being taught by Dr. Kris Tjornehoj. We had a Scottish music team lead the entire group in a Ceilidh (or Kegle- leigh) dance, and many students remarked about how they were glad to have had a group-bonding experience like that at the beginning of our semester! We also went to see opera and a symphony performances, visited the Scottish National Parliament, and had a friend of mine, Willie Dunn, who is a Scottish Labour politician talk to the group the day before he was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation about possible Scottish independence. He is opposed, and we’re provoked some strong debate when some of my students visited a pub that is a Scottish National Party stronghold and mentioned that Willie Dunn had just talked to our group. I think it was a real eye opener for them as they saw firsthand the passions that surround the debate about whether or not Scotland should be part of the United Kingdom. We also had the group sample Scottish food, including Haggis, a mixture of different meats, animal parts, grains, seasonings, and more! Most of the group tried it and some of us really enjoyed it! Then we spent the weekend on a MacBack- packer’s tour, visiting historical and political sites throughout the Scottish Highlands, including the Battlefield of Culloden, the area of the infamous massacre of Scots at Glencoe, the Cairns of Clava (i.e., ancient standing stones and burial grounds), Inverness, and Loch Ness, among other things. Four of the students went swimming in old "Nessie" looking for the monster, and we have video records of their swimming adventure!

Then we headed to London for more classes and activities. We attended a session of the House of Commons, where we watched them vote using the old-fashioned British method of walking through doors, before visiting the House of Lords, where they were engaged in debates about legal reform. As part of Dr. Tjornehoj’s music class, we toured Royal Albert Hall, watched an amazing performance of Cirque du Soleil that everyone seemed to love, the musical Billy Elliot, and Stomp, a show featuring no dialogue, but plenty of amazingly creative percussion performances. Everyone really loved that one.

We then traveled to Paris, arriving via the Chunnel (my younger children kept asking how we could be under all that water over our heads without the tunnel collapsing!). We had a great tour of old Paris, focusing on the French Revolution and the advent of democracy, something that is a key part of my classes. Among other things, we were able to see the famous Palace of Versailles to give students perspective on how rich the monarchies of Europe were at one time, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and the Arc de Triomphe.

After Paris we visited Amsterdam, where we had a guided tour of the city, visited Anne Frank’s house, and took a day trip to The Hague, where we saw the World Court (or International Court of Justice). In Berlin, we had a four-hour historical walking tour that covered every period of Prussia/German history, went to see exhibits on the development of German democracy, the German Historical Museum, exhibits on the Weimar Republic and Third Reich, and ended at the Reichstag. We really enjoyed seeing the Pergamon Museum where we walked the Gates of Ishtar (built by King Nebuchadnezzer), a Temple of Athena, and the Pergamon Altar, of course! It was amazing. We also went to see Trepot Park, a monument on the Spree River with a huge war memorial built by the Soviet Army after the Second World War.

In Prague, we had an amazing time seeing the old city, and had historical tours focusing on several topics including its Communist past. Our tour guide was a very old gentleman who remembered the German Army during WWII, and the entrance of Soviet troops. It was amazing to hear about his life experiences as Prague moved from being occupied by Germany, to a Communist regime, to its current state as a democracy. We also visited the Prague Castle, one of the oldest bridges in Europe (the Karl Bridge), and spent quite a bit of time in classes, too.

Then we moved to Munich, where we had a historical walking tour of the city, followed by a visit to the Hofbräuhaus to hear traditional German music, dancing, and more. We took a day trip to Nürnberg to see the German cultural museum, and the Nazi Party grounds. Afterwards everyone had a chance to visit a museum of their choice. I took seven of us to the Albrecht Dürrer House. If you don’t recognize the name, I’m sure you would recognize either his famous “rabbit” painting, or his self-portrait that many experts claim is the model used in Eu- rope to represent Christ. We also had an always-sobering visit to Dachau Concentration Camp, before heading to Berchtesgaden in the Alps.

In Berchtesgaden we visited a Dokumentation Center focusing on Germany’s Nazi past. We also experienced a salt mine that required that we dress up as miners of old. As you might expect, they have a section on salt’s key historical role (it was once worth as much as its weight in gold). I think everyone enjoyed riding the wooden slides that were used by the miners to get quickly from level to level. We also had a day trip to Salzburg, where we were treated to tour guides discussing the city’s role in the Thirty Years’ War, Mozart, and a discussion of the Sound of Music. In addition, we took a tour of the Salzburg Fortress, and sampled the original chocolate Mozartkugeln (chocolate, marzipan, nuts, etc.). Everyone seemed to enjoy those, and we later used them as rewards for students who best represented the countries they had studied as part of the ITC experience. We also had some time to hike in and around the mountains a bit, and most of our group walked about 90 minutes into a snowy canyon.

We traveled to Italy towards the end of March, stopping in Bozen, or Bolzano, on our way to Verona. While we were there, we had an opportunity to see the world-famous ice man:\http://www.iceman.it/en/node/226. It was really inter-
International Traveling Classroom (continued)

interesting to learn about what life and that area of Europe were like some 5,000 years ago. We peeked into the ice chamber, a climate-controlled area, where you can see the iceman, and checked out all kinds of artifacts and associated stories. Then we headed on to Verona, a key city historically for many civilizations, including the Romans. We stayed in a youth hostel that was based in an old Villa in the former Roman districts, and there were ruins right under the building we resided in (we were given a special, private tour). Right next to us was an old Roman outdoor theater, with a 12th century church built almost on top of it. Verona also had the third largest arena, or coliseum, in Europe, and it is still intact. It was astonishing to sit in the same seats used by Romans two thousand years ago to watch gladiators fighting.

Dr. Charlie Rader joined us in Italy to teach an urban geography class, and part of it involved day trips to Florence and Venice. Of course we toured the canals, went to some museums, and also went to Murano, an area famous for its blown glass where we had a chance to watch the pros working their craft. One thing we sure came to realize while in Verona is how much Italians like pasta! The hostel even had a truck deliver it in huge plastic bags that they piled up in front of us. They must have had the equivalent of a hundred, fifty-pound bags! We ate most of our meals at the hostel (they all came with pasta, of course!), but had one large group meal at a traditional Italian restaurant where we were able to sample many local foods. We arranged a group meal at a local restaurant in each country and these were particularly enjoyable not only because we had a chance to talk with students, but because the local people often were interested in socializing with us. As you can see from one of the attached photos, the owner of our Italian restaurant enjoyed serenading the ladies in our group!

In Vienna we took another of our historical walking tours with some very informative and interesting guides, got passes to see several key sites, such as Schönbrunn Palace, and also visited the City Museum, which laid out the history and politics of Vienna, including its role in halting the Turkish advance into Europe. Our guide pointed out that the croissant, usually associated with France, was actually an Austrian invention designed to celebrate victory over the Turks. We also took two day trips, to St. Pölten, Austria, and Bratislava, in the Slovak Republic. It was really nice to see another East European country, and to try some more Eastern European food.

Finally, at the end of the semester, students had two weeks to travel independently. Overall, it was an amazing semester, and truly rewarding. After spending more than four months in Europe, I was also happy to see everyone arrive home safely in May.

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Political Science Students Receive Honors and Scholarships

Each year URF recognizes students for outstanding educational achievement and/or community service.

HONORS

CONGRATULATIONS to political Science majors Charles Ellefson, James Hanscom, and Kathleen McNeil who graduated with Senior Merit honors and to Michael Ritter and Grant Turpin who graduated Summa Cum Laude.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Ray Anderson Scholarship: awarded to a political science major/minor who has completed at least six semester hours in political science, active in partisan or nonpartisan politics at the national, state, or local level, or in student government. Preference is given to students who are involved in environmental politics. Hannah Carlson, 2012–2013 recipient

Robert L. Berg Scholarship: awarded to a student in political science, has completed at least 60 credits with a GPA of no less than 3.0. Austin Knott, 2012–2013 recipient

Richard J. and Maurine K. Brynildsen Scholarship: awarded to a sophomore, junior or senior student with a political science major. The student must have an interest in international affairs and be in good academic standing. Shane Hamilton, 2012–13 recipient

Denis P. Hickey Memorial Scholarship: awarded to a junior majoring in political science who has completed 60 or more credits, is in the upper third of the class, shows evidence of leadership through active participation in school, church, or community, and be satisfactorily progressing toward a degree. Ashley Goettl, 2012–13 recipient

Domingo Svec Family Memorial Scholarship: must be majoring in political science with preference given to a student from the Ellsworth area and seriously considering working for the federal or state government in some capacity. Gradon Nelson, 2012–13 recipient

Charles and Patricia White Scholarship: awarded to a student in good standing in the College of Arts and Sciences who is pursuing the Pre-Law Curriculum. Ashley Goettl, 2012–13 recipient

Kenneth S. White Memorial Scholarship: awarded to a sophomore or junior political science major pursuing the pre-law curriculum and with the highest GPA. Hannah Carlson, 2012–13 recipient